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SCII Agenda Newsletter

November 2020 Issue

The mission of the Schoolcraft College International Institute (SCII) is to coordinate cross-cultural learning opportunities for students, faculty, staff and the community.

GlobalEYEzers



[GlobalEYEzers](#) meets twice each year to discuss current events that are inherently global in nature. These discussions are held usually on a Friday afternoon in an informal setting with an attendance that includes mostly faculty members, but also includes students and community members.

GlobalEYEzers was founded by Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at Schoolcraft College, Sandy Roney-Hays. Under her leadership, GlobalEYEzers hosted numerous very successful presentations and workshops. The current coordinators of GlobalEYEzers are Professor Anna Maheshwari from the English Department and Professor Josselyn Moore from the Anthropology Department.

GlobalEYEzers aims at discussing topics that are unique to various cultures but at the same time, bind us together as global citizens living in a global society. Past discussion topics have included Maternal-Adolescent Bonding, The Millennial Generation and Social Media, Syrian Refugee Crisis, and Dr. Neil Postman's Discussion of Propaganda.

Our most recent GlobalEYEzers event was on Instagram; it was by far the best attended event – we had 423 views! Professor Maheshwari interviewed Yash Bajaj, a Duke University graduate with a Masters in Public Policy, about how to be civically engaged and influence public policy. His intersectional identity as a queer, first-generation American and as a man of color has truly shaped his deep interest in public policy. We appreciated his insight and the time he took from his busy schedule to meet with us.

Any ideas for future events? Please email Anna (amaheshw@schoolcraft.edu) or Josselyn (jmoore@schoolcraft.edu).

Global Endorsement



As technology advances, barriers of distance, language and time zones have been removed. Regardless of their chosen career path, our students will likely encounter and work alongside people from other parts of the world. Many industries have undergone significant globalization in recent decades with more expected to follow.

Learning about different nations and cultures and their interconnections is an important part of education in the 21st century. At Schoolcraft, students have the opportunity to demonstrate such proficiency by earning a Global Endorsement as part of their degree.

The Global Endorsement, overseen by the International Institute, certifies that a student has globalized their education at Schoolcraft College by taking 15 or more credit hours of “international” courses. An international class contains at least the equivalent of two weeks of intercultural, international, or diversity material in a 15-week course.

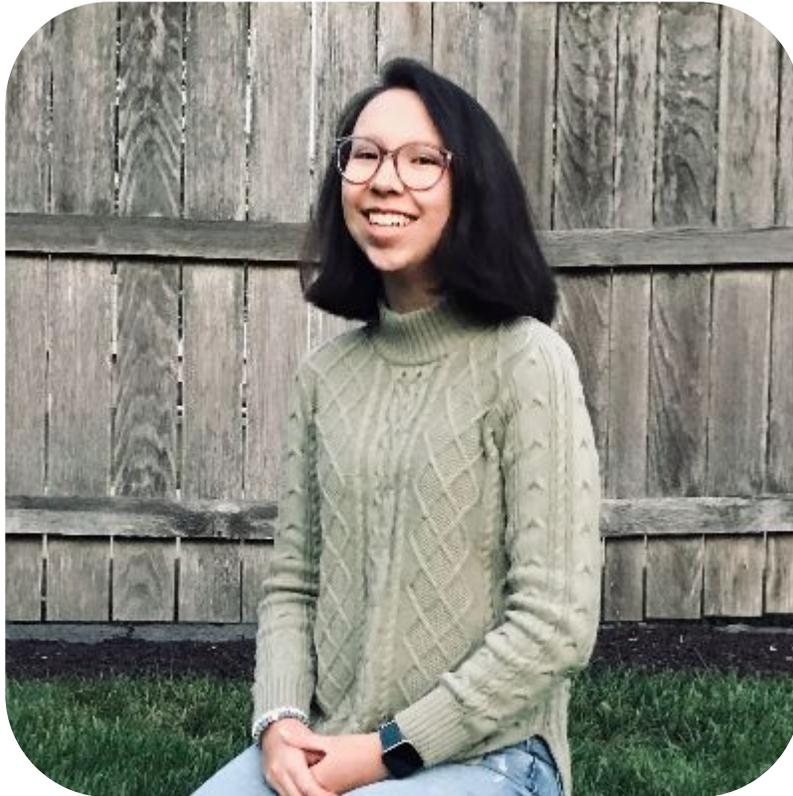
More than 3,500 Schoolcraft students have already earned a Global Endorsement through their work in diverse courses including anthropology, history, culinary management and computer graphics technology. Currently, there 85+ different classes across 22 academic disciplines that qualify for the International designation, making it easy for students to find courses that meet degree requirements and contribute to the Endorsement. At the end of each

semester, Global Endorsement certificates are automatically mailed to students who have completed 15 credit hours of “international” coursework.

The International Institute is committed to bringing the world to Schoolcraft students and enriching their lives while better preparing them for a more internationalized world—at work, at home, and in their communities.

For more information about the Global Endorsement, please visit our [SCII website](#), or email Professor Kimberly Lark (klark@schoolcraft.edu).

Meet Our Students



Hello everyone, my name is Camila Villalobos, and in addition to being a full-time Schoolcraft College student, I am an Honors Scholar, Student Ambassador, and the President of Amnesty International on campus. Schoolcraft College Amnesty International (SCAI) is a student-led group focused on defending human rights, and I invite you to join a global movement of millions of activists demanding human rights for all people. Our SCAI goal is to spread awareness and compassion on campus through various events such as global letter-writing campaigns, documentary movie nights, activism and

allyship training, and guest speakers.

This is my first year as the SCAI President, and I'm proud of our accomplishments, especially given the needs for remote learning and social distancing on campus. SCAI has hosted several events including a COVID-19 presentation with Professor Kristin Fruth, and a Black Lives Matter movie night with discussion. Most recently, I was featured in the City of Asylum Pittsburgh and Amnesty International Ithaca's Crossing the Line event, a digital presentation about free expression, political cartoons, and the importance of humor in today's political climate. SCAI participated in a letter writing party, where participants sent over 100 virtual letters in support of writers, journalists, and artists who are being silenced around the world. Some of our events were organized around the annual [Banned Books Week](#).

On December 12 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., SCAI and Amnesty International Ithaca will co-sponsor our second *Write for Rights* event via Zoom. [Write for Rights](#) is Amnesty International's largest annual human rights campaign. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to join at any time and write letters on behalf of people who need urgent help. People like Idris Khattak from Pakistan, who has been abducted by authorities for documenting enforced disappearances under international law for Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. Through the power of collective action, your letters will help convince government officials to free Idris and other people unjustly imprisoned or facing abuses. A formal Zoom invitation and flier will be sent out to Schoolcraft campus soon.

On November 19th, SCAI will be hosting a [ZOOM collaborative virtual watch party](#) along with the Black Student Union, Phi Theta Kappa, and Safe Place. We will be watching [Healing from Hate](#), a provocative film that opens the door for a discussion on the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). There will also be a Q & A with the filmmaker directly after watching the film!

We welcome all students to join us for our meetings on the first Friday of each month. Everyone can sign up for our Remind to receive SCAI event announcements. Joining Remind is super easy; all you have to do is use your phone to text this message: @scraftai, to this number: 81010. Finally, be sure to also follow us on Instagram: [@scraft_amnesty_international](#)

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



City of Asylum Detroit



My name is Emily Podwoiski, and I am the Schoolcraft College Honors Program Assistant and Amnesty International Club Advisor. I am a former Schoolcraft College honors student, and I am currently earning my Master's in Creative Writing at Wayne State University with a focus in Creative Nonfiction. Through Wayne State, I am also interning as the Community Liaison at City of Asylum/Detroit, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and protecting freedom of expression.

This year, The Schoolcraft Scholars Honors Program is partnering with [City of Asylum/Detroit](#), which belongs to a network of 70+ cities supporting international artists and writers who are at risk in their home countries because of their work. As a writer and banned-books-enthusiast, I am thrilled to be a part

of this organization. Our partnership with City of Asylum/Detroit is a way for Schoolcraft Scholars to give back to our local community as well as our global one.

City of Asylum/Detroit's mission is to create thriving spaces for artists, writers, and neighbors in the North End of Detroit—a neighborhood pulled between gentrification initiatives by outside investors, and community initiatives put forth by residents. Through the democratic dissemination of creative voices, we aim to support transformation that is grassroots, creative, and collaborative. Through our creative place making initiatives, we hope to have a transformative cultural impact where we live. Our most urgent goal: bring our first international writer to Detroit by early 2021.

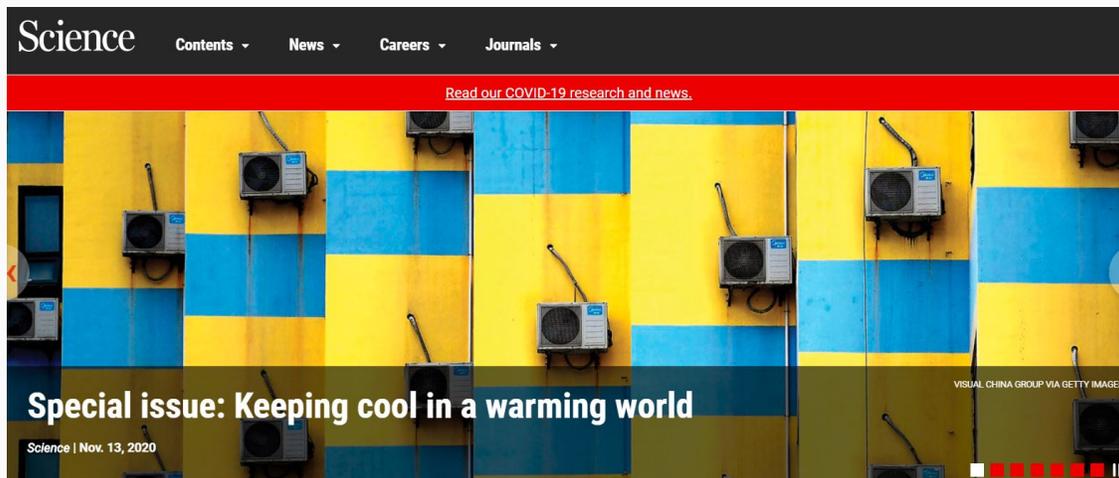
But we need your help! Schoolcraft Scholars honors students are fundraising with City of Asylum/Detroit to help bring over our first writer and resident. We are raising funds to support their travel costs, including an expedited O-1 visa for extraordinary talent (\$2,000), and plane ticket (approx. \$1,000). They are currently in danger, so expediting their travel is of utmost concern. While we need to withhold additional information until they arrive to ensure their safety, we have concluded over multiple discussions and a thorough review of their work that they will profoundly enrich Detroit's intellectual and creative life. We invite you to donate to our [GoFundMe](#), which will cover the resident's travel expenses. Our goal is to raise \$3,000, and we ask all donations are made by Giving Tuesday on December 1.

Schoolcraft Scholars honors students may pursue City of Asylum/Detroit as a capstone project in Sociology 290, the capstone course taught by Karen Schaumann. Although our volunteers are made up of Schoolcraft Scholars, City of Asylum/Detroit is open to everyone, including faculty, staff, students, and community members. Our most recent service event through City of Asylum/Detroit took place on October 24 at Oakland Avenue Urban Farm in Detroit, where Schoolcraft Scholars and City of Asylum members harvested, weeded, and tasted fresh spinach right from the ground! Oakland Avenue Urban Farm is a non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating healthy foods, sustainable economies, and active cultural environments. Schoolcraft Scholars had a blast, and several Scholars will continue working with the farm. City of Asylum/Detroit's neighbor, the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative, is another farm we plan to work with in the future and one of four urban farms providing locally grown produce in walking distance of our artist residencies.

If you have questions or you are interested in volunteering with City of Asylum/Detroit, you may contact me at epodwois@schoolcraft.edu or emily@cityofasylumdetroit.org. You can also follow us City of Asylum/Detroit on Instagram: [@cityofasylumdetroit](https://www.instagram.com/cityofasylumdetroit)



Internet Resource: AAAS Science



<https://www.sciencemag.org/>

Visit the Science website by the American Association for the Advancement of Science to learn about science topics and research around the globe.

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